

The President's Daily Brief

~~*Top Secret*~~ 23 July 1968



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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
23 JULY 1968

1. Czechoslovakia

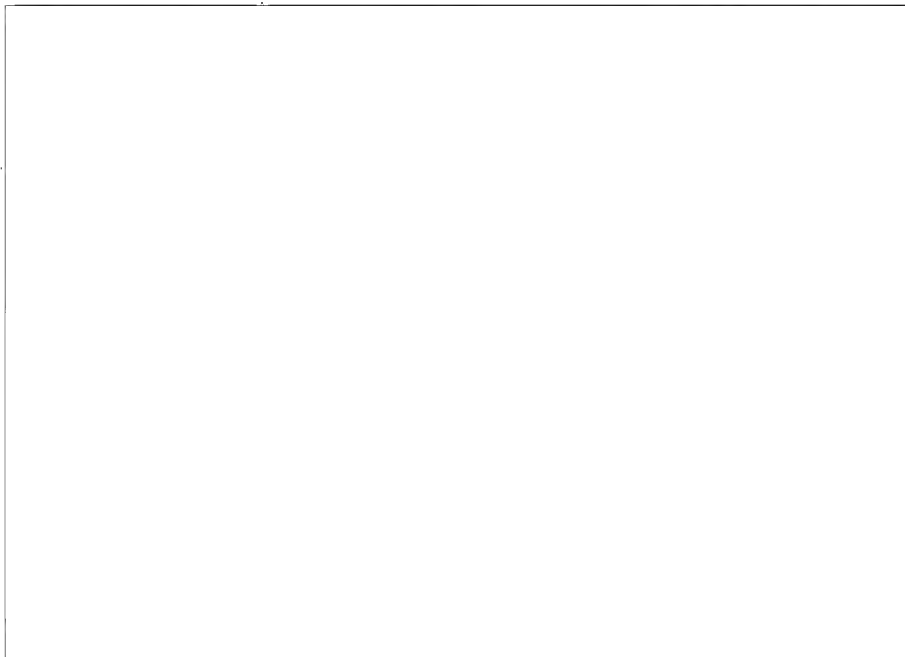
Prague has not responded yet to the Soviet decision to talk to the Czech leaders on their home ground. Czech officials, however, have consistently indicated that Prague will talk with the Soviets, but Prague radio has added that the Soviet troops must be gone first. The Czechs may delay answering the Soviet proposal until they are satisfied about this.

[] continue to pinpoint the presence of Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia, although several more Soviet units have recently left the country. Other Russian contingents are set to leave today and tonight, according to Czech press releases.

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2. Soviet Union

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3. Egypt

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4. West Germany

Officials in Bonn are still afraid the East Germans are about to place more restrictions on access to Berlin. Foreign Ministry officials, for instance, are particularly worried that barge traffic to the city will be disrupted. Other possibilities are new mail and parcel post restrictions. In addition, there are rumors that when the Soviet ambassador to East Germany returned home last week, he was carrying a whole raft of proposals for future measures against the city.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

- 1.) Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
- 2.) North Vietnamese Reflections of U S
Political Attitudes



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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

Hanoi Restrained on Honolulu: The North Vietnamese may be trying to get across the idea that they have a white hat in the closet and would put it on in exchange for some US concessions. To the possible hints already dropped--reduced Communist military activity and some measure of flexibility on the Front program--they now have added a notably low-key comment on the Honolulu meeting.

Yesterday Nhan Dan, the party daily, discussed the conference less in the traditional terms of America's evil intent and more as a tedious ritual the President had to go through to shore up the Thieu government. After all, Nhan Dan noted editorially, questions of war and peace would really be decided in Washington, not Honolulu.

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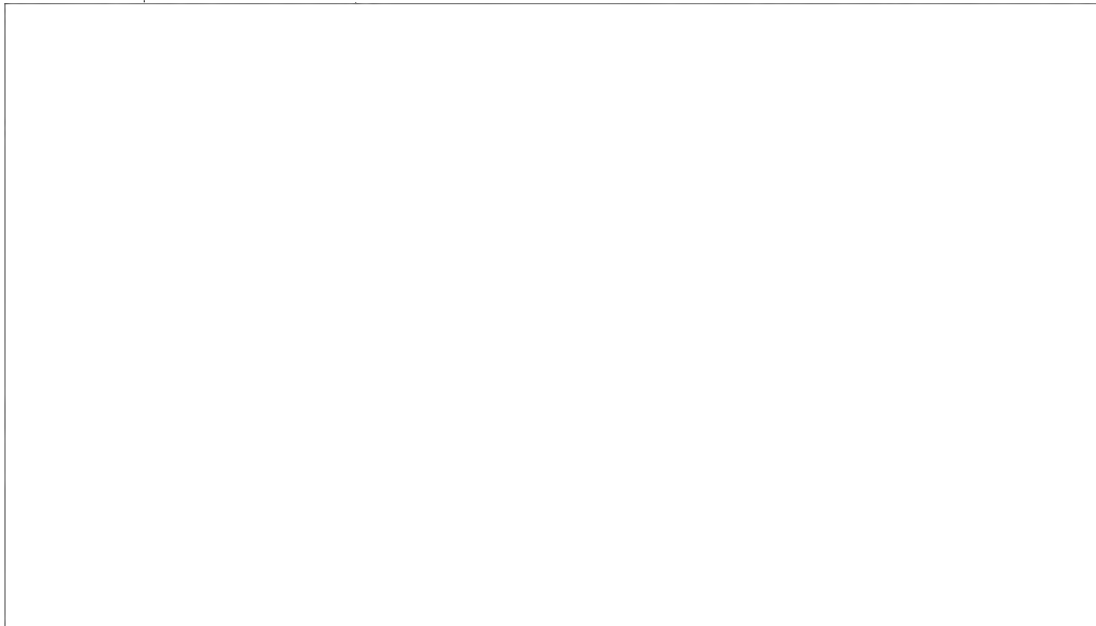
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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

There is nothing significant to report today.

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